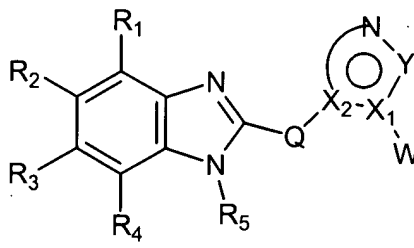
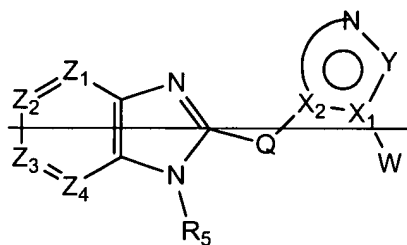


Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of the formula:

a'



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

~~Z₁ is nitrogen or CR₁;~~

~~Z₂ is nitrogen or CR₂;~~

~~Z₃ is nitrogen or CR₃;~~

~~Z₄ is nitrogen or CR₄;~~

~~provided that no more than two of Z₁, Z₂, Z₃, and Z₄ are nitrogen;~~

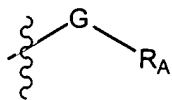
R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, haloalkyl, and haloalkoxy,

ii) alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, (R₁₀)NHalkyl-, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)Nalkyl-, alkanoyl, alkoxycarbonyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀,

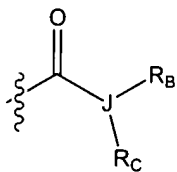
wherein R₁₀ and R₁₁ are independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl; and

iii) a group of the formula:



a) where G is a bond, alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or -CH₂C(=O)-, and R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀,

iv) a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-alkyl, and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl;

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain:

- a) one or more double bonds,
- b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, or N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar₁, alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or Ar₁alkyl; wherein Ar₁ is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl, and/or
- c) one or more substituents R₂₀;

v) $-\text{OC}(=\text{O})\text{R}_\text{E}$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{OR}_\text{E}$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NHR}_\text{E}$, $-\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{NR}_\text{E}\text{R}_\text{F}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_\text{n}\text{R}_\text{E}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_\text{n}\text{NH}_2$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_\text{n}\text{NHR}_\text{E}$, $-\text{S}(\text{O})_\text{n}\text{NR}_\text{E}\text{R}_\text{F}$, $-\text{NHC}(=\text{O})\text{R}_\text{E}$, $-\text{C}(=\text{NR}_\text{E})\text{R}_\text{F}$, $-\text{HC}=\text{N}-\text{OH}$, $-\text{HC}=\text{N}(\text{alkoxy})$, $-\text{HC}=\text{N}(\text{alkyl})$, $-\text{NR}_\text{E}\text{C}(=\text{O})\text{R}_\text{F}$, $-\text{NHS}(\text{O})_\text{m}\text{R}_\text{E}$, and $-\text{NR}_\text{E}\text{S}(\text{O})_\text{m}\text{R}_\text{F}$, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, mono- or dialkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30} ;

R_{20} is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of: halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; alkyl; alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; cycloalkylalkoxy; alkenyl; alkynyl; haloalkyl; oxo; haloalkoxy; mono- and dialkylamino; aminoalkyl; and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_{30} is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, oxo, mono- and dialkylamino, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R_5 represents hydrogen or haloalkyl; or

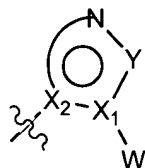
R_5 represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, or (cycloalkyl)alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R_{30} , or

R_5 represents aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of haloalkyl, amino, $-\text{NH}(\text{R}_{10})$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_{10})(\text{R}_{11})$, carboxamido, $(\text{R}_{10})\text{NHcarbonyl}$, $(\text{R}_{10})(\text{R}_{11})\text{Ncarbonyl}$, halogen, hydroxy, nitro,

cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

Q represents $-C(R_6)(R_7)$ or oxygen,

with the proviso that Q is not oxygen when X_2 is nitrogen; R_6 and R_7 independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or alkyl; the group:



represents a 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, said 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring is substituted at each carbon atom by R, and substituted at each nitrogen atom available for substitution by R', wherein

R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, alkyl, and alkoxy, where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

R' is independently chosen at each occurrence from alkyl, hydrogen, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl(alkyl), and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which 3- to 7-

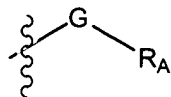
a' membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, alkyl, and alkoxy, where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

X₁ and X₂ independently represent nitrogen, carbon or CH;
Y is nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, -CH-, -CH₂-, or absent; and
W represents aryl or heteroaryl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R₃₀, -CO₂H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -C(O)R_E, and -S(O)_mR_E, -OR_E, where R₃₀ and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 1, wherein

R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from

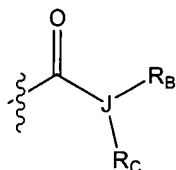
- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆) alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, alkynyl, ((C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl)(C₁-C₄)alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), hydroxy(C₁-C₆)alkyl, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxycarbonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio, mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀, wherein R₁₀ and R₁₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, and mono and di(C₁-C₆)alkylaminoalkyl;
- iii) a group of the formula:



where G is (C₁-C₆)alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or -CH₂C(=O)-, and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring consisting of from 3 to 8 ring atoms, and each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O; said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀, and

iv) a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C₁-C₆)alkyl and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) (C₁-C₄)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, C₁-C₆alkoxy, and C₁-C₆alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

- a) one or more double bonds;
- b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar₁, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or Ar₁(C₁-C₆)alkyl; wherein Ar₁ is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen

from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, C₁-C₆alkoxy, and C₁-C₆alkyl; and/or

c) one or more substituents R₂₀;

Q¹ v) -OC(=O)R_E, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NH₂, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -S(O)_nR_E, -S(O)_nNH₂, -S(O)_nNHR_E, -S(O)_nNR_ER_F, -NHC(=O)R_E, -C(=NR_E)R_F, -HC=N-OH, -HC=N(C₁-C₆alkoxy), -HC=N(C₁-C₆alkyl), -NR_EC(=O)R_F, -NHS(O)_mR_E, and -NR_ES(O)_mR_F, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, aryl, and heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R₃₀;

R₂₀ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; (C₁-C₆)alkyl; (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino; (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl; (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl; (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkoxy; (C₂-C₆)alkenyl; (C₂-C₆)alkynyl; halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl; halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy; oxo; mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino; amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl; and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₃₀ is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, oxo, mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents hydrogen or halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl; or

R₅ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, or (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)(C₁-C₄)alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R₃₀ or

a' R₅ represents aryl, aryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroaryl(C₁-C₄)alkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of:

halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, amino, NH(R₁₀), N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), carboxamido, NH(R₁₀)carbonyl, N(R₁₀)(R₁₁)carbonyl, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄)alkoxy, heterocyclo(C₁-C₄)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

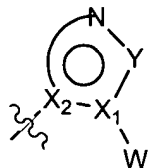
Q represents -C(R₆)(R₇) or oxygen,

with the proviso that Q is not oxygen when X₂ is nitrogen;

R₆ and R₇ independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or

C₁-C₆alkyl;

the group:



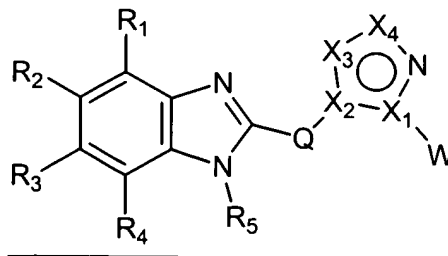
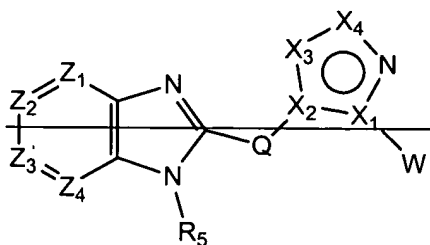
represents a 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring containing up to 4 heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, sulfur, and oxygen, said 5 to 7 membered heteroaryl or heterocycloalkyl ring is substituted at each carbon atom by R, and is substituted at each nitrogen atom available for substitution by R', wherein

a' R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, and -O(C₁₋₄alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms;

R' is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, C₁-C₆alkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl(C₁-C₄alkyl), and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups are optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, and -O(C₁₋₄alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms; and

X₁, X₂, W, and Y are as defined in Claim 1.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2 of the formula:



wherein ~~Z₁, Z₂, Z₃, Z₄, R₅, Q, X₁, X₂, and W~~ are as defined in ~~Claim 2,~~

X₃ and X₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of carbon, CR, N, O, S, NH, and N(C₁-C₆)alkyl; provided that at least one of X₁, X₂, X₃, and X₄ is carbon or CR, wherein

a' R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, and -O(C₁₋₄alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms.

Claims 4-6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein X₂ is carbon; and Q is oxygen.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein X₂ is N; and Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

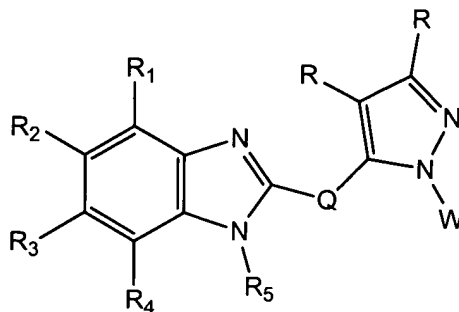
Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3, wherein X₂ is carbon; and Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 6 3, wherein X_1 is carbon; X_2 is N; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 6 3, wherein X_1 is nitrogen; X_2 is carbon; and Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Q1
Claim 12 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 6 3, wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 6 3, of the formula



~~wherein R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, Q, and W are as defined in Claim 6.~~

Claim 14 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 13 wherein Q is $C(R_6)(R_7)$.

Claim 15 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of

- i) hydrogen, halogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, halo (C_1-C_6) alkyl, halo (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, and
- ii) phenyl and pyridyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_4 alkyl, and $-O(C_1-C_4$ alkyl);

a! R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, or pyrimidinyl;

R₆ and R₇ independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or C₁-C₆alkyl; and

W represents phenyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, or pyrimidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 independently selected R₃₀ groups.

Claim 16 (original) A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C₁-C₂)alkyl;

R₁, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

Q is CH₂; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl,

isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R₃₀ groups.

Claim 17 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 16 wherein

a) R₁, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and
W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 18 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 19 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein R, R₁, and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 20 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

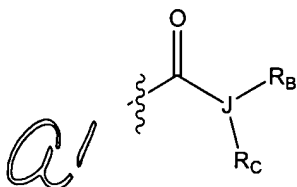
Claim 21 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

R₂ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 22 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

R₂ is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C₁-C₆)alkyl and

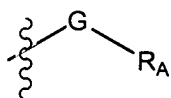
R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, and (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

- a) one or more double bonds,
- b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
- c) one or more substituents R₂₀.

Claim 23 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 17 wherein

R₂ is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C₁-C₂alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 24 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 23 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} .

Q' Claim 25 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 14, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1-C_2) alkyl;

R_1 , R_2 , and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_8) cycloalkyl (C_1-C_6) alkyl, halo (C_1-C_6) alkyl, halo (C_1-C_6) alkoxy, mono or di (C_1-C_6) alkylamino, amino (C_1-C_6) alkyl, and mono- and di (C_1-C_6) alkylamino (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1-C_6) alkyl;

Q is CH_2 ; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 26 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 25 wherein

R_1 , R_2 , and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C_1-C_2 haloalkyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and C_1-C_2 alkoxy.

Claim 27 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

a' Claim 28 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein R, R₁, and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 29 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

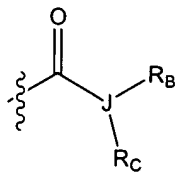
Claim 30 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R₃ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 31 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R₃ is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C₁-C₆)alkyl and

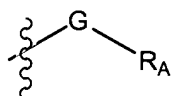
R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, and (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)(C₁-C₄)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

- a) one or more double bonds,
b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
c) one or more substituents R₂₀.

Claim 32 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R₃ is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C₁-C₂alkyl; and

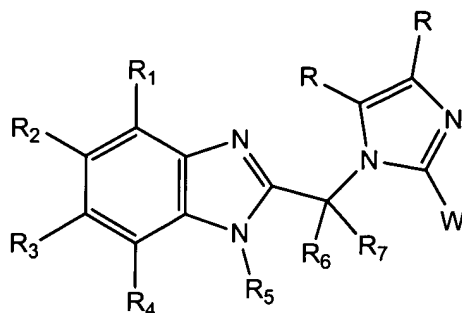
R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 33 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 32 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 34 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 26 wherein

R₃ is -HC=N-OH or -HC=N(C₁-C₆ alkoxy).

Claim 35 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim ~~6~~ 3 of the formula



wherein ~~R, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, R₇, and W are as defined in Claim 6.~~

Claim 36 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of

- i) hydrogen, halogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, and
- ii) phenyl and pyridyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 3 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, and -O(C₁₋₄alkyl);

R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, heterocycloalkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, thiophenyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, or pyrimidinyl;

R₆ and R₇ independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or C₁-C₆ alkyl; and

W represents phenyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, or

pyrimidinyl, each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R₃₀ groups.

Claim 37 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

a' W represents a 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl groups, wherein the 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R₃₀, -CO₂H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -C(O)R_E, -S(O)_mR_E, and -OR_E; and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 38 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

W represents a 5-membered heteroaryl group, wherein the 5-membered heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R₃₀, -CO₂H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -C(O)R_E, -S(O)_mR_E, and -OR_E, and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 39 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C₁-C₂)alkyl;

R₁, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl,

isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R₃₀ groups.

Claim 40 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 39 wherein

a' R₁, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 41 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 42 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein R, R₁, and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 43 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

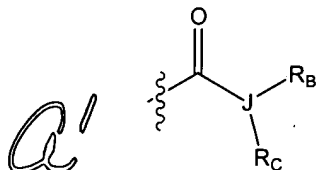
Claim 44 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R₂ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 45 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R₂ is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C₁-C₆)alkyl and

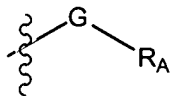
R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, and (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) (C₁-C₄)alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

- a) one or more double bonds,
- b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, and N-R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C₁-C₆)alkyl;
- c) one or more substituents R₂₀.

Claim 46 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein

R₂ is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C₁-C₂alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 47 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 46 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} .

a' Claim 48 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 40 wherein R_2 is $-HC=N-OH$ or $-HC=N(C_1-C_6\text{alkoxy})$.

Claim 49 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 35, wherein:

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and $(C_1-C_2)\text{alkyl}$;

R_1 , R_2 , and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$, $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkoxy}$, $(C_3-C_8)\text{cycloalkyl}$, $(C_3-C_8)\text{cycloalkyl}(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$, halo $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$, halo $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkoxy}$, mono or di $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkylamino}$, amino $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$, and mono- and di $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkylamino}(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$;

R_5 represents $(C_1-C_6)\text{alkyl}$;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazoyl, pyridyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl, pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R_{30} groups.

Claim 50 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 49 wherein

R_1 , R_2 , and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C_1-C_2 alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyridyl, or thiazolyl, each which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

a! Claim 51 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 52 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein R, R₁, and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 53 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

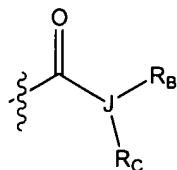
Claim 54 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R₃ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 55 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R₃ is a group of the formula



where J is N, CH, or C-(C₁-C₆)alkyl and

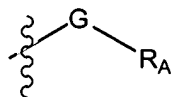
R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, (C_1-C_6) alkyl, (C_2-C_6) alkenyl, (C_2-C_6) alkynyl, C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl, and $(C_3-C_8$ cycloalkyl) (C_1-C_4) alkyl; or

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain

- a) one or more double bonds,
b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, and N- R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen or (C_1-C_6) alkyl;
c) one or more substituents R_{20} .

Claim 56 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R_3 is a group of the formula:



where G is a bond or C_1-C_2 alkyl; and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} .

Claim 57 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 56 wherein R_A is chosen from phenyl, pyrrolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isoxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, and oxazolyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} .

Claim 58 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 50 wherein

R_3 is $-HC=N-OH$ or $-HC=N(C_1-C_6$ alkoxy).

Claim 59 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein:

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is carbon; X₂ is nitrogen; X₃ is CR; X₄ is nitrogen; and Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Q!

Claim 60 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is carbon; X₂ is nitrogen; X₃ is nitrogen; X₄ is CR; and Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 61 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

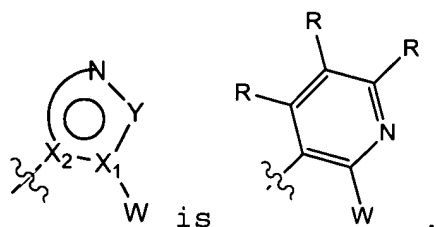
X₁ is carbon; X₂ is carbon; X₃ is S; and X₄ is CR.

Claim 62 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 61 wherein Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 63 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2, wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

and the group



Claim 64 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 63 wherein Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 65 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is nitrogen; X₂ is carbon; X₃ is nitrogen; and X₄ is CR.

a' Claim 66. (currently amended) A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is carbon; X₂ is carbon; X₃ is NH or N(C₁-C₆alkyl); and X₄ is CR.

Claim 67 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3 wherein

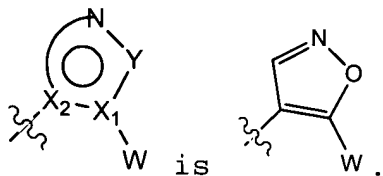
~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is carbon; X₂ is nitrogen; X₃ is nitrogen; X₄ is nitrogen; and Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 68 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 2, wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

and the group



Claim 69 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3, wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is nitrogen; X₂ is carbon; X₃ is CR; and X₄ is nitrogen.

Claim 70 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 69 wherein Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claim 71 (currently amended): A compound or salt according to Claim 3, wherein

~~Z₁ is CR₁; Z₂ is CR₂; Z₃ is CR₃; Z₄ is CR₄;~~

X₁ is nitrogen; X₂ is carbon; X₃ is nitrogen; and X₄ is nitrogen.

a' Claim 72 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 71 wherein Q is C(R₆)(R₇).

Claims 73-164 (cancelled)

claim 165. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound or salt according to Claim 1 combined with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

claim 166 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a GABA_A receptor, said method comprising contacting a cell expressing such a receptor with an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 sufficient to detectably alter the electrophysiology of the cell, wherein a detectable alteration of the electrophysiology of the cell indicates an alteration of the signal-transducing activity of GABA_A receptors.

claim 167 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a GABA_A receptor, said method comprising contacting a cell expressing such receptors with an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 to detectably alter the chloride conductance in vitro of cell expressing GABA_A receptors.

Claim 168 (currently amended) The method of Claim 167 wherein the cell ~~is~~ recombinantly expresses a heterologous GABA_A receptor and the alteration of the electrophysiology of the cell is detected by intracellular recording or patch clamp recording.

Claim 169 (original): The method of Claim 167 wherein the cell is a neuronal cell that is contacted in vivo in an animal, the cell is contacted with the compound or salt dissolved in a body fluid, and the alteration in the electrophysiology of the cell is detected as a change in the animal's behavior.

Q' Claim 170 (original): The method of Claim 169 wherein the animal is a human, the neuronal cell is a brain cell, and the body fluid is cerebrospinal fluid.

Claim 171 (original): A method for altering the signal-transducing activity of a GABA_A receptor, the method comprising exposing a cell expressing the GABA_A receptor to an amount of a compound or salt according to Claim 1 sufficient to inhibit RO15-1788 binding *in vitro* to cells expressing a human GABA_A receptor.

Claim 172 (original): A method for the treatment of anxiety, depression, a sleep disorder, schizophrenia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, or for the enhancement of memory, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound or salt of Claim 1 to a patient.

Claims 173-177 (cancelled)

Claim 178 (original): A package comprising a pharmaceutical composition of claim 165 in a container and further comprising at least one of:

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from an anxiety disorder, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from depression, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from a sleeping disorder,

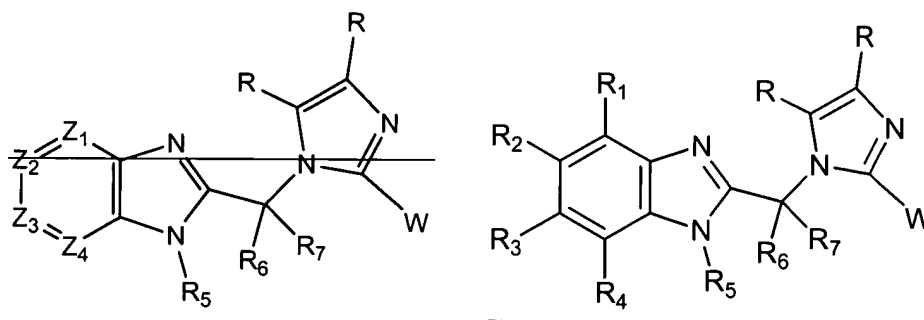
instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from schizophrenia, or

instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder.

a' Claim 179 (original): A package comprising a pharmaceutical composition of claim 165 in a container and further comprising indicia comprising at least one of: instructions for using the composition to treat a patient suffering from Alzheimer's dementia or instructions for using the composition to enhance memory in a patient.

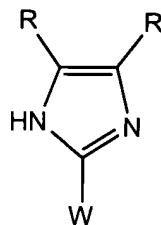
Claims 180-182 (cancelled)

Claim 183 (original): A process for preparing a compound of Formula A



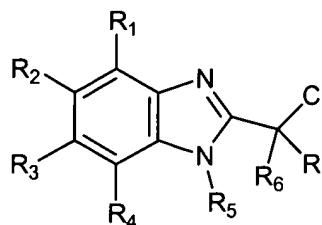
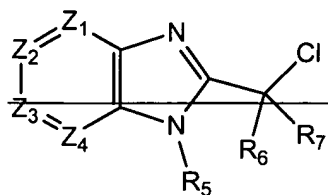
Formula A

comprising reacting a compound of Formula B



Formula B

with a compound of Formula C



Formula C

wherein:

~~Z₁ is nitrogen or CR₁;~~

~~Z₂ is nitrogen or CR₂;~~

~~Z₃ is nitrogen or CR₃;~~

~~Z₄ is nitrogen or CR₄;~~

~~provided that no more than two of Z₁, Z₂, Z₃, and Z₄ are nitrogen;~~

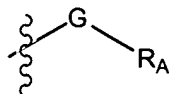
R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from

i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, haloalkyl, and haloalkoxy,

ii) alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, (R₁₀)NHalkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)Nalkyl, alkanoyl, alkoxy carbonyl, (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, mono- or dialkylaminocarbonyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, and heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀,

wherein R₁₀ and R₁₁ are independently selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl; and

iii) a group of the formula:

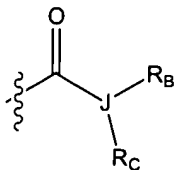


where G is a bond, alkyl, -O-, -C(=O)-, or -CH₂C(=O)-, and

R_A is a saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle, consisting of 1 ring or 2 fused, pendant, or spiro rings, each ring containing 0, 1, or 2 heteroatoms independently

chosen from N, S, and O, said saturated, partially unsaturated, or aromatic carbocycle is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} , and

iv) a group of the formula



a) where J is N, CH, or C-alkyl, and

R_B and R_C are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, (cycloalkyl)alkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, alkanoyl, heteroaryl, and mono and dialkylaminoalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl;

R_B and R_C and the atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10-membered monocyclic or bicyclic ring, which may contain:

- a) one or more double bonds,
 - b) one or more of oxo, O, S, SO, SO₂, or N- R_D wherein R_D is hydrogen, Ar_1 , alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, or Ar_1 alkyl; wherein Ar_1 is aryl or heteroaryl, each of which is optionally substituted by 1 or 2 substituents independently chosen from halogen, hydroxy, cyano, amino, nitro, alkoxy, and alkyl, and/or
 - c) one or more substituents R_{20} ;
- v) $-OC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NH_2$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-S(O)_nR_E$, $-S(O)_nNH_2$, $-S(O)_nNHR_E$, $-S(O)_nNR_ER_F$, $-NHC(=O)R_E$, $-C(=NR_E)R_F$, $-HC=N-OH$, $-HC=N(alkoxy)$, $-HC=N(alkyl)$, $-NR_EC(=O)R_F$, $-NHS(O)_mR_E$, and $-NR_ES(O)_mR_F$, where m is 0, 1 or 2, and

R_E and R_F are independently selected at each occurrence from alkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, mono-

or dialkylamino, aryl, or heteroaryl each of which is optionally substituted by 1, 2, or 3 of R₃₀;

R₂₀ is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of: halogen; hydroxy; nitro; cyano; amino; alkyl; alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino; cycloalkyl; cycloalkylalkyl; cycloalkylalkoxy; alkenyl; alkynyl; haloalkyl; oxo; haloalkoxy; mono- and dialkylamino; aminoalkyl; and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R₃₀ is independently selected at each occurrence from halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, oxo, mono- and dialkylamino, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R₅ represents hydrogen or haloalkyl; or

R₅ represents alkyl, cycloalkyl, or (cycloalkyl)alkyl, each of which may contain one or more double or triple bonds, and each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 of R₃₀, or

R₅ represents aryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of haloalkyl, amino, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), carboxamido, (R₁₀)NHcarbonyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)Ncarbonyl, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, alkyl, alkoxy optionally substituted with amino or mono- or dialkylamino, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, cycloalkylalkoxy, heterocycloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, aminoalkyl, and mono- and dialkylaminoalkyl;

R₆ and R₇ independently represent hydrogen, fluorine, or alkyl;

a' R is independently chosen at each occurrence from hydrogen, halogen, amino, C₁-C₆alkyl, (C₂-C₆)alkenyl, (C₂-C₆)alkynyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl)(C₁-C₄)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, haloalkoxy, carboxamido, and 3- to 7-membered carbocyclic or heterocyclic groups which are saturated, unsaturated, or aromatic, which may be further substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from halogen, oxo, hydroxy, C₁₋₄alkyl, and -O(C₁₋₄alkyl), where the heterocyclic groups contain carbon atoms and one, two, or three heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur atoms; and

W represents aryl or heteroaryl, wherein the aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R₃₀, -CO₂H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -C(O)R_E, and -S(O)_mR_E, -OR_E, where R₃₀ and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 184 (original): A process according to Claim 183, wherein:

Z₁ is CR₁, Z₂ is CR₂, Z₃ is CR₃, and Z₄ is CR₄,

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C₁-C₂)alkyl;

R₁, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen; and

W represents phenyl, furanyl, thienyl, thiazolyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl,

pyrimidinyl, benzimidazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl each of which is optionally substituted with up to 4 R₃₀ groups.

Claim 185 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl, 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

a' Claim 186 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein R, R₁, and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 187 (original): A process according to Claim 184, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 188 (original): A process according to Claim 184 wherein

R₂ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,
- ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀.

Claim 189 (original): A process according to Claim 183 wherein

Z₁ is CR₁;

one and only one of Z₂ or Z₃ is nitrogen;

Z₄ is CR₄; and

R₂ or R₃ is chosen from

- i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy,

ii) C₁-C₆alkyl, C₁-C₆alkoxy, C₃-C₈cycloalkyl, C₂-C₆alkenyl, C₂-C₆alkynyl, (C₃-C₈cycloalkyl) C₁-C₄alkyl, -NH(R₁₀), -N(R₁₀)(R₁₁), (R₁₀)NH(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (R₁₀)(R₁₁)N(C₁-C₆)alkyl, (heterocycloalkyl)C₁-C₄alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R₂₀;

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C₁-C₂)alkyl;

a! R₁ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₆)alkyl, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl, (C₃-C₈)cycloalkyl(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy, mono or di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino, amino(C₁-C₆)alkyl, and mono- and di(C₁-C₆)alkylamino(C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₅ represents (C₁-C₆)alkyl;

R₆ and R₇ are hydrogen;

W represents a 5-membered heteroaryl group, the 5-membered heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R₃₀, -CO₂H, -C(=O)OR_E, -C(=O)NHR_E, -C(=O)NR_ER_F, -C(O)R_E, and -S(O)_mR_E, -OR_E, where R₃₀ and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 190 (original): A process according to Claim 189, wherein Z₃ is nitrogen.

Claim 191 (original): A process according to Claim 189 wherein

R₁ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and

W is thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or isoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 192 (original): A process according to Claim 191, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl.

Claim 193 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 191, wherein R, R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen.

a' Claim 194 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 191, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 195 (original): A process according to Claim 189, wherein Z₂ is nitrogen.

Claim 196 (original): A process according to Claim 195 wherein

R₁ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and
W is thiazolyl, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrazolyl, or isoxazolyl, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 197 (original): A process according to Claim 196, wherein W is 2-thiazolyl.

Claim 198 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 196, wherein R, R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 199 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 196, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 200 (original): A process according to Claim 183 wherein

Z_1 is CR_1 ;

one and only one of Z_2 or Z_3 is nitrogen;

Z_4 is CR_4 ;

R_2 or R_3 is chosen from

a) i) hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, halo(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, and halo(C_1 - C_6)alkoxy,

ii) C_1 - C_6 alkyl, C_1 - C_6 alkoxy, C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, (C_3 - C_8 cycloalkyl) C_1 - C_4 alkyl, $-NH(R_{10})$, $-N(R_{10})(R_{11})$, $(R_{10})NH(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, $(R_{10})(R_{11})N(C_1-C_6)alkyl$, (heterocycloalkyl) C_1 - C_4 alkyl, and heterocycloalkyl, each of which is optionally substituted with 1, 2, 3, or 4 of R_{20} ;

R is independently selected at each occurrence from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, and (C_1 - C_2)alkyl;

R_1 , R_3 , and R_4 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, amino, (C_1 - C_6)alkyl, (C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkyl, (C_3 - C_8)cycloalkyl(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1 - C_6)alkoxy, mono or di(C_1 - C_6)alkylamino, amino(C_1 - C_6)alkyl, and mono- and di(C_1 - C_6)alkylamino(C_1 - C_6)alkyl;

R_5 represents (C_1 - C_6)alkyl;

R_6 and R_7 are hydrogen; and

W represents a 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group, wherein the 6-membered aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with up to 4 groups independently selected from R_{30} , $-CO_2H$, $-C(=O)OR_E$, $-C(=O)NHR_E$, $-C(=O)NR_ER_F$, $-C(O)R_E$, and $-S(O)_mR_E$, $-OR_E$, where R_{30} and R_E are as defined above and m is 0, 1, or 2.

Claim 201 (original): A process according to Claim 200, wherein Z_3 is nitrogen.

Claim 202 (original): A process according to Claim 201 wherein

R₁ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridiziny, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 203 (original): A process according to Claim 202, wherein W is 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

Claim 204 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 202, wherein R, R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 205 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 202, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 206 (original): A process according to Claim 200, wherein Z₂ is nitrogen.

Claim 207 (original): A process according to Claim 206 wherein

R₁ and R₄ are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, trifluoromethyl, C₁-C₂ alkyl, and cyano; and

W is phenyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridiziny, each of which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently chosen from halogen, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, C₁-C₂haloalkyl, C₁-C₂alkyl, and C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

Claim 208 (original): A process according to Claim 207, wherein W is 2-pyrimidinyl, 3-fluorophenyl, or 6-fluoro-2-pyridinyl.

a' Claim 209 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 207, wherein R, R₁ and R₄ are hydrogen.

Claim 210 (original): A compound or salt according to Claim 207, wherein R₅ is ethyl or n-propyl.

Claim 211 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is
1-Propyl-2-{[2-(2-fluoropyrid-6-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;
1-Ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyrazol-3-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;
1-Ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-pyrazol-3-yl]methyl}-5-acetyl-1H-benzimidazole;
3-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-propyl-3H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;
1-[3-Ethyl-2-(2-thiazol-2-yl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-3H-benzoimidazol-5-yl]-ethanone;
4-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-2-methylbutan-2-ol;
2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;
2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;
2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;
6-chloro-2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole; or
a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 212 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is
6-chloro-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-
propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{ [2-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-
propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{ [2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-
yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-3-propyl-3H-
imidazo[4,5-b]pyridine;

6-chloro-2-{ [2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-
yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-
yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-2-{ [2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-
ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{ [2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-
benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-
benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-
(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 213 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is
2-{ [2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-
(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-
(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-
[(4-methylpiperidin-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{ [2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-fluoro-1-
propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

5-fluoro-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-

propyl-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 214 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[2-(2-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

5-bromo-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-Propyl-2-{[2-(2-fluoropyrid-6-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-cyano-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

3-{1-[(1-ethyl-5-fluoro-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-5-(3-fluorophenyl)-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[2-(3-cyanophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-

benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 215 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 3-{1-[(5-bromo-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-

a' imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5,6-dicarbonitrile;

3-{1-[(5-acetyl-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-yl)methyl]-1H-imidazol-2-yl}benzonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(5-methyl-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-[(trifluoromethyl)sulfonyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-{[2-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(5-methyl-1,3-oxazol-2-yl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 216 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)propan-1-one;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-fluoroethyl)-2-{ [2-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

a' 1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-methyl-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 217 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-thien-3-yl-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(1-propyl-2-{ [2-(6-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{ [2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-6-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

a' Claim 218 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 5,6-dichloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

3-ethyl-6-methyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]methyl}-3H-imidazo[4,5-c]pyridine;

1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

6-chloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-methyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 219 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-

yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-6-methyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-6-fluoro-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

a' 1-ethyl-6-fluoro-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-{[2-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

2-{[2-(3-fluoropyridin-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1-propyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-(1-ethyl-2-{[2-(1,3-thiazol-2-yl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[2-(5-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-Propyl-2-(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-imidazol-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-{1-ethyl-2-[(2-pyrimidin-2-yl-1H-imidazol-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl}ethanone; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 220 (new): A compound according to claim 1, which is 1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-1-ethyl-5-(morpholin-4-ylmethyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-ethyl-5-fluoro-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

5-chloro-1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;

2-{[1-(2,5-difluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)methyl]-1-ethyl-

1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazole-5-carbonitrile;

1-(2-{[1-(3-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-ethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)ethanone;

1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole-6-carbonitrile;

a' 1-(1-ethyl-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)propan-1-one;

2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1-(3-fluoropropyl)-1H-benzimidazole;

1-(2-fluoroethyl)-2-{[1-(3-fluorophenyl)-1H-pyrazol-5-yl]methyl}-1H-benzimidazole; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
